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ANNUAL MEETING - MAY/JUNE 1960

The following report has been received from the Continuing Working Party of ESTANA.

Abbreviations Used:

- ESTANA - Expert Meeting on Statistics, North Atlantic, held in Edinburgh.
- STANA - Used in the numbering of documents and forms pertaining to the work of ESTANA or its Continuing Working Party.

Especially,

- STANA IW - Detailed statistics form for the Northwest Atlantic.
- STANA IE - Detailed statistics form for the Northeast Atlantic.
- STANA IIW - Summary form for the Northwest Atlantic.
- STANA IIE - Summary form for the Northeast Atlantic.
- SITC - Standard International Trade Classification.
- BTN - Brussels Tariff Nomenclature.

CONTINUING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AREA

First Meeting

Bergen, Norway; 25-26 May 1960

The Working Party met on 25th May, 1960, at 10:30 a.m. in Bergen, Norway, at the Marine Institute Building. All members were present: Mr. W.C. MacKenzie (Canada), Mr. M. Elisson (Iceland), Dr. O. Bauer (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. F. Allen (United Kingdom), Mr. R.S. Keir (ICNAF), Dr. A. Fridriksson (ICES), and Mr. F.E. Popper (FAO).

Mr. E. Tamburi (FAO) opened the meeting in his capacity of Acting Secretary of the Working Party, and invited the participants to comment on the Draft Agenda (STANA/I/1), which had been submitted to them for approval. It was suggested and agreed that item 6 should be made item 5 and item 5 would become item 6; the following agenda was then adopted without other changes:

GENERAL

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of Statute and Rules of Procedure
4. Nomination of additional members of the Working Party

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TECHNICAL MATTERS

5. Standardization of terminology for fishing areas in statistical reporting.
6. Standardization of statistical reporting between ICES, ICNAF and FAO.
7. Progress report on preparation of fully documented edition of the Report (ESTANA 8 - Revised) of the Edinburgh Meeting.
8. Other matters.
9. Date and place of next meeting.

On item 2 of the Agenda, Election of Officers, Mr. R.S. Keir was unanimously elected Chairman of the Working Party. He took the chair and asked for the nomination of a Vice-Chairman; Mr. M. Elisson was then unanimously elected.

On item 3 of the Agenda, Adoption of Statute and Rules of Procedure, the Working Party considered a draft (STANA/I/4) prepared by the Secretariat. It was agreed to add the following sentence to paragraph 4: "Any members of the Working Party may suggest to the Secretary that a meeting be held.". The first sentence of paragraph 6 was also amended to read as follows: "Each country and each International Organization represented on the Working Party shall have one vote.". Apart from these two changes, the Statute and Rules of Procedure were adopted in the form presented by the Secretariat.

The Chairman then passed to consider item 4, Nomination of additional members of the Working Party. It was unanimously agreed to nominate in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Statute the following additional experts as members: Professor G.M. Gerhardsen (Norway), Mr. B. Parrish (United Kingdom), and Dr. M. Rauterberg (Federal Republic of Germany). It was also agreed unanimously to nominate Dr. L. Dickie (ICNAF) and Dr. C.E. Lucas (ICES) for the duration of the present session.

The Working Party then considered item 5 of the Agenda: Standardization of terminology for fishing areas in statistical reporting and reviewed a memorandum (STANA/I/2) by the FAO member. After a discussion in which all members participated, stressing the importance of uniformity of terms as well as the desirability of making the least possible changes in the terminology at present used by the organisations concerned, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the international organizations to adopt in future the following terms:

Recommended Definitions:

<u>Region</u>	<u>North Atlantic</u>	
	<u>ICNAF</u>	<u>ICES</u>
Area	The whole of the Convention Area.	The whole of the area for which ICES statistics are collected.
Sub-area	Sub-area as defined in the Convention (area covered by one panel) - designated by arabic numeral.	Statistical area designated by roman numeral.
Division	First subdivision of sub-area designated by capital letter.	First subdivision of sub-area designated by roman numeral plus lower case letter.

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It was also suggested that consideration should be given to a uniform numbering system for both ICNAF and ICES, which would facilitate reporting, but the Working Party did not come to any recommendations on this point.

The Chairman then opened the discussion on item 7: Progress report on preparation of fully documented edition of the Report (ESTANA 8 - Revised) of the Edinburgh Meeting. The Working Party took note of the Progress Report (STANA/I/3) submitted and recommended that the editors of the fully documented edition of the Report should incorporate in it the various developments that have occurred since the Edinburgh Meeting, including the terminology recommended at the present meeting, and that decisions taken at this meeting should also be mentioned.

The afternoon session was fully occupied by the discussion of item 6 of the Agenda: Standardization of statistical reporting between ICNAF, ICES and FAO. The Chairman asked Mr. Popper to introduce this subject, as the FAO Secretariat had worked on the experimental forms concerned. Mr. Popper started the description of form STANA IW and document STANA IW and IE: Notes (1) containing instructions for completing the form. Apart from the fact that this form and the Notes are affected by the resolutions passed by the Working Party under item 5 - Standardization of terminology for fishing areas in statistical reporting - the Working Party agreed to make the following amendments to document STANA IW and IE: Notes (1):

- Paragraph 2: replace "the" at the end of the third line and insert "estimate of the".
- Paragraph 3: delete "approximate value of" from the first line.
- Paragraph 4: to be rewritten for use on form IE.
- Paragraph 5: the last sentence should read: "Such summaries, while not specifically required, will be welcomed by the international organisations."

Concerning document STANA IW AND IE: Notes (2), Heading I, Craft Category, the Working Party, after discussing the advisability or not of breaking down steam and motor craft into coal and oil, and gasoline, diesel or diesel-electric respectively, agreed that these more detailed categories could be deleted for the present purposes.

As far as Heading 2, Tonnage Class, was concerned, the Working Party noted that at present ICES does not request the countries to supply data by tonnage classes. The meeting thought that ICES should consider the adoption of the classification used by ICNAF for tonnage classes, and finally agreed that countries having data by tonnage classes should supply them according to the ICNAF classification.

Heading 3. The Working Party decided to replace "Gear Category" by "Fishing Method" in the title of the heading, to replace "include" by "specify" under (9), to renumber (12), Other Line, as number (13), and to amend (13) to Dories (deleting "vessel") and renumbering it as (12). It was also agreed to add (17), "Gear not specified".

The Working Party then took into consideration document STANA IW and IE: Notes (3), in which the instructions for completion of form STANA IW continue. There was general agreement on the advisability of the establishment of a uniform code for fish species, but the Working Party deferred discussion of this problem in detail. The paragraphs concerning "Hours or nearest equivalent measure" and "Days" caused some discussion, as in practice these data may not be the result of independent measurements. It was finally agreed to leave the two paragraphs in their present form; however, the problem was pointed out to the ICNAF Sub-Committee on Statistics, which has agreed to study it.

The Working Party then discussed at considerable length the difficulty of allocating to the relevant divisions catches and efforts taken from more than one division during a trip. After consultation with the ICNAF Sub-Committee, it was agreed that, while in some cases allocation of the whole catch and effort of a trip to the main division where fishing

had taken place would not introduce a serious error into the final compilations, the Working Party agreed that in general the allocation of catches and efforts to the separate divisions was necessary to satisfy the requirements of ICNAF and ICES.

The Working Party met on 26th May, 1960 at 10:30 a.m., and the Chairman opened discussion document STANA IW: Columns A, B and C. Mr. Popper gave explanations on this document; the Working Party decided to amend No. 12 as follows: Other flounders including not identified. The Working Party then approved this document and went on to examine the following one, STANA IE: Columns A, B and C. The German delegate asked whether it would have been possible to have one form only combining STANA IW and IE, but Mr. Popper pointed out that one form would be too big and difficult to handle because the requirements are so different in the two organizations and because of the large number of species involved. The Working Party agreed to keep the two documents.

The Working Party subsequently considered and approved forms STANA IIW and STANA IIE, which represent summary forms for annual figures, after Mr. Popper had given the required explanations about them.

The Working Party decided that the experimental forms should be tried out, using 1959 data, and that this should be done by Iceland, Germany and the United Kingdom, while Canada should be asked to review the forms in order to ensure they presented no additional difficulty in comparison with the forms already filled out for ICNAF.

The Working Party is to consult by correspondence and is to arrive at a decision whether such difficulties as had arisen during the experimental run justify a further meeting of the Working Party before the forms are put to general use. The Working Party also decided to recommend to the international organizations the use of the forms for the collecting of statistics from all countries for the 1960 data unless particular difficulties had come up during the experimental stage.

The experimental forms should be distributed during the second half of 1960, and in any case before the ICES meeting, to the four countries concerned with them in the first stage. The other countries should be informed of the progress made, and specimen forms should be distributed to them for their information.

ICNAF will supervise the printing and distribution of the experimental forms, in consultation with the Canadian Bureau of Statistics, who kindly offered to help.

The Working Party, under item 9 of the Agenda - Other Matters, discussed the problems in connection with coding systems. After considerable discussion on the desirability of a uniform coding for species and other matters concerned with the mechanical data processing of fishery statistics, the Working Party decided to ask FAO to obtain from governments represented on the Committee, and others as necessary, descriptions of the coding and system used in the preparation of statistics; and to circulate them to members of the committee prior to the next meeting along with a definite proposal, if desirable, of a uniform coding for species. It was noted that, in order to permit uniform processing of the statistics (on punch cards) from different countries, it was not necessary to have identical coding systems, but that they must be compatible in that it must be possible to convert from one to another. The whole question is to be discussed again at the next meeting of the Working Party.

The third meeting of the Working Party started at 1:45 p.m. on 26th May and continued discussion on item 9 of the Agenda. Dr. Bauer informed the Working Party that Germany had decided to study both conversion factors and discards by sending observers to sea to get the necessary samples and observations. The Working Party noted with satisfaction these plans and invited other countries to give information on similar developments.

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The Working Party then considered a memorandum by the FAO member (STANA 1/6) entitled Standard International Trade Classification for Fishery Products. It was agreed to recommend that a footnote be put against Group 031. Fish, fresh, chilled or frozen to say that canned products are excluded from the group. It was also decided to recommend that sub-group 081.43 be deleted and replaced with the following classification:

081.5 Fish and Meat not canned
081.51 Meat
081.52 Fish and whale meat

The Working Party felt, that with these modifications, the FAO proposals represented a desirable improvement of the SITC-BTN III draft. It expressed the view that a satisfactory classification of fishery products was of great value to countries for which fish provided important export items, and decided to recommend to the international agencies and to the governments represented that they urge the United Nations to delay introduction of the SITC-BTN III in order to give time for its more careful consideration in the light of the requirements of specialized international organizations such as those represented on the Working Party. It also requested the Director-General of FAO to bring this recommendation to the attention of governments participating in ICES and ICNAF.

The Working Party also considered the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Edinburgh Meeting. In particular, it noted that ICES had recommended to cease collecting and publishing statistics for the Newfoundland subarea, but not for West Greenland. The Working Party regretted that ICES had not yet found it possible to eliminate completely overlapping of the statistics collected by them with those collected by ICNAF and hoped that ICES would reconsider this matter, or possibly agree to publish their statistics in such form as to exclude catches in the West Greenland subarea from the totals.

The Working Party decided that the present report be distributed to (a) all governments of countries which had been invited to the Edinburgh Meeting, (b) to all participants in the Edinburgh Meeting, (c) to the members of the Working Party itself, (d) to the United Nations Statistical Office, and (e) to OEEC, EEC and EFTA.

As far as item 10 of the Agenda was concerned, i.e. date and place of next meeting, the Working Party felt that, unless an earlier meeting proved necessary, the next meeting could possibly be held in conjunction with the FAO Technical Meeting on the Economic Effects of Fishery Regulations, tentatively scheduled for June 1961, in Ottawa.